

MARVEL

003

FALL OF X

SIMONSON
CHANG
MAIOLO

JEAN GREY

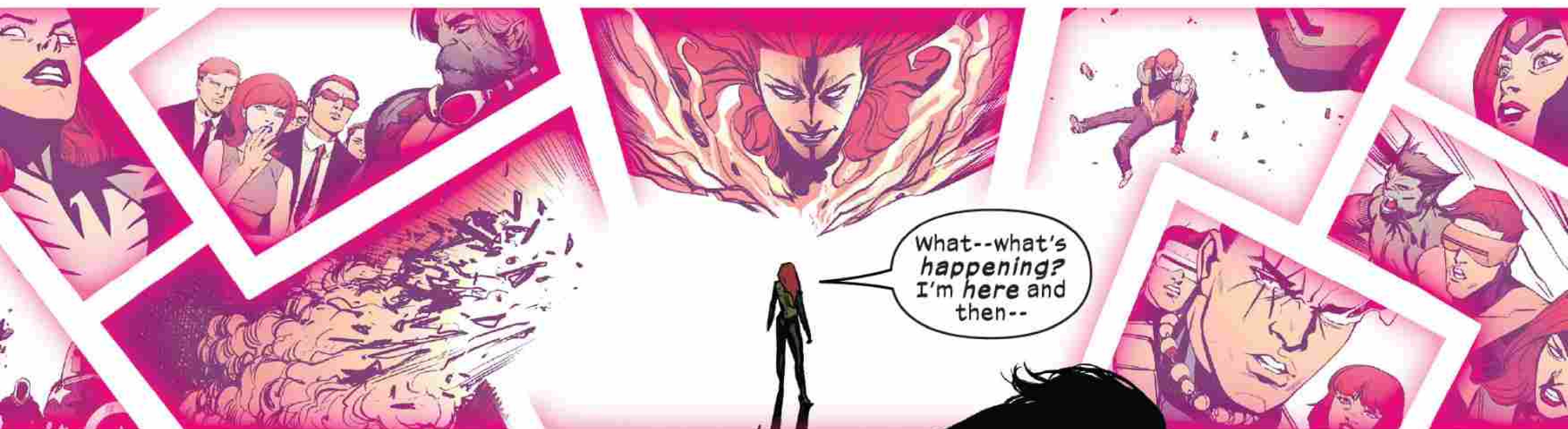




Madelyne.

Every time
I *deal* with you,
everything goes
to Hell.

Surely
that doesn't
surprise
you.



What--what's
happening?
I'm *here* and
then--



Where? A
desert?



And
chains.

I've been
chained like
this *before*.

No. Not me.
Madelyne,
these chains
are *yours*.

My memories,
shackling you
for a change.

Seems
only *right*,
considering how long
your memories
have shackled
me.

Don't you
feel it? We...
aren't *alone*.
Maddie, are
you--?

Doing
this? No. You're
cracking up fine
without my
help.



--I'm
going to
read Jean's
mind.



Hope?!
Is that
you? You're
alive?



And Exodus!
But--

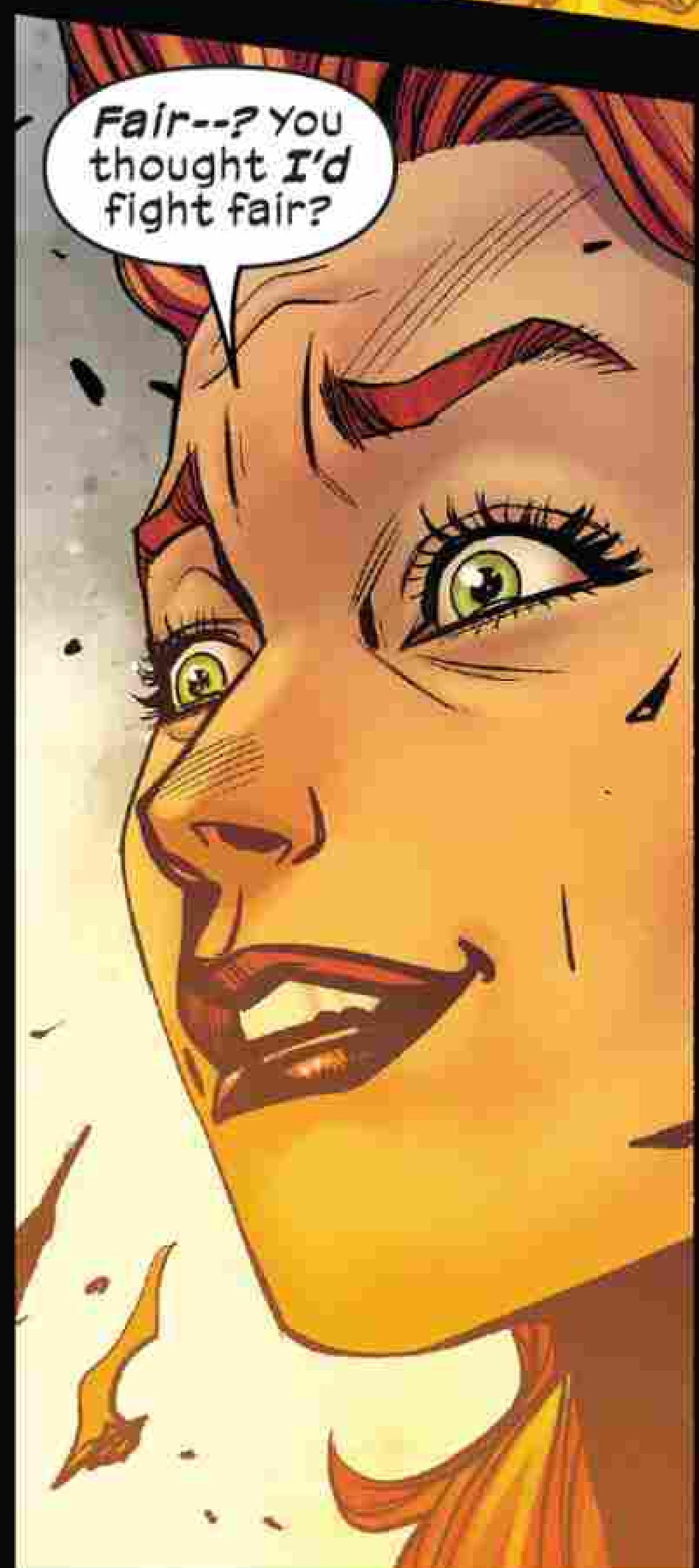
Her mind
is on fire. It's
burning. So hot.
Beyond hot.
So...

...I know
where we are.
I don't know what
it means, but...
I know.

What's the
"White Hot
Room"?



I don't
know what's
happening. It
isn't fair.



Fair--? You
thought I'd
fight fair?



That
I'd forget
what you took
from me? That I'd
forgive...



"...the disaster
you called
Inferno?"

"Or do I need to
remind you?"

OBSESSION

[fall_of]
[X]

[FALL OF X] JEAN GREY

[fall_of]
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Flames of Fear

Jean Grey is an Omega-level mutant, a telepath, and a founding member of the X-Men. As **Marvel Girl**, she fought alongside her fellow mutants to protect humanity and mutants alike. Then, as the host for the dangerous cosmic entity known as the **Phoenix Force**, she embarked down a road of destruction and sorrow. Returning from that dark path, she regained her place among the X-Men. Most recently, she was a member of the **Quiet Council** of the mutant nation of **Krakoa**, where mutantkind had finally found peace and safety.

Or so they thought. Then the anti-mutant organization **Orchis** attacked the Hellfire Gala. Jean was killed in the attack, along with scores of other mutants. Orchis threatened to annihilate increasing numbers of humans for every mutant found on the planet, forcing **Charles Xavier** to psychically banish the remaining mutants from Earth; only a handful with training were able to resist his telepathic command.

Untethered in time and space, Jean Grey's mind now wanders down past avenues, trying to figure out where it all went wrong. She's ruled out her early adventures with the X-Men, as well as her decision to embrace the Phoenix Force. What else could've been the catalyst for her current predicament?

1 [JEAN GREY]



If you're just as confused as Jean about Hope and Exodus' attempts to help her, IMMORTAL X-MEN #16 will catch you up. --S.B.

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JEAN GREY

03

“OBSESSION”

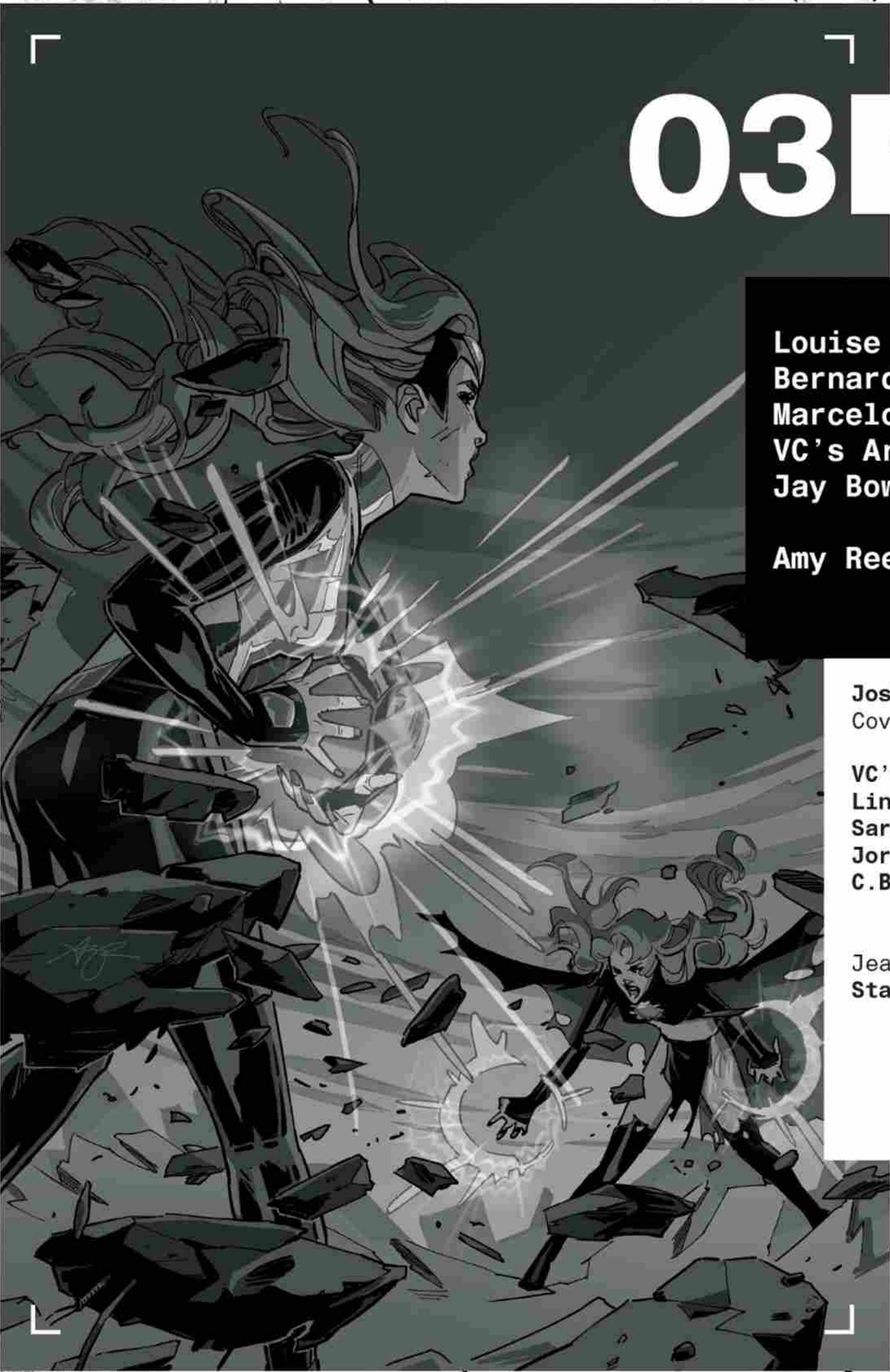
Louise Simonson/Writer
Bernard Chang/Artist
Marcelo Maiolo/Color Artist
VC's Ariana Maher/Letterer
Jay Bowen/Design

Amy Reeder/Cover Artist

Joshua “Sway” Swayby/Variant Cover Artist

VC's Ariana Maher/Production
Lindsey Cohick/Assistant Editor
Sarah Brunstad/Editor
Jordan D. White/Senior Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

Jean Grey created by
Stan Lee & Jack Kirby



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"Mr. Sinister, determined to possess a child of Scott's and your lineage, used your cells and force-grew me in a tube.

"Awakened by the Phoenix Force, I emerged an empty vessel, his innocent dupe, a pawn. I married Scott...

"...produced Nathan Christopher, and was abandoned by Scott when he learned that you still lived."

"No, Maddie. Listen. Scott left me. He looked for you. They told him you were dead."

"In my hurt, my helplessness, I sought power where I could find it."

"I consorted with demons-- N'astirh, architect of Inferno, and his techno-organic archrival, S'ym--and became part of N'astirh's planned demon invasion."

"Again and again, I was used-- by Sinister, as his broodmare...by Scott, as a Jean substitute...by S'ym, as a spy...by N'astirh, to open his path to world domination."

"While you ignored my existence, until I forced the knowledge on you."

We were told you both had died, but Scott kept looking. He found Christopher--

--he was cryogenically frozen, in a secret crèche beneath the orphanage where Scott was raised.

The chamber's open. What now?

We go slowly. Let him warm up. Come alive.

"Then all hell broke loose."

"A being in egg-shaped armor attacked us, and, to avoid endangering the babies, we took the fight outside..."

"...while demons slipped in..."

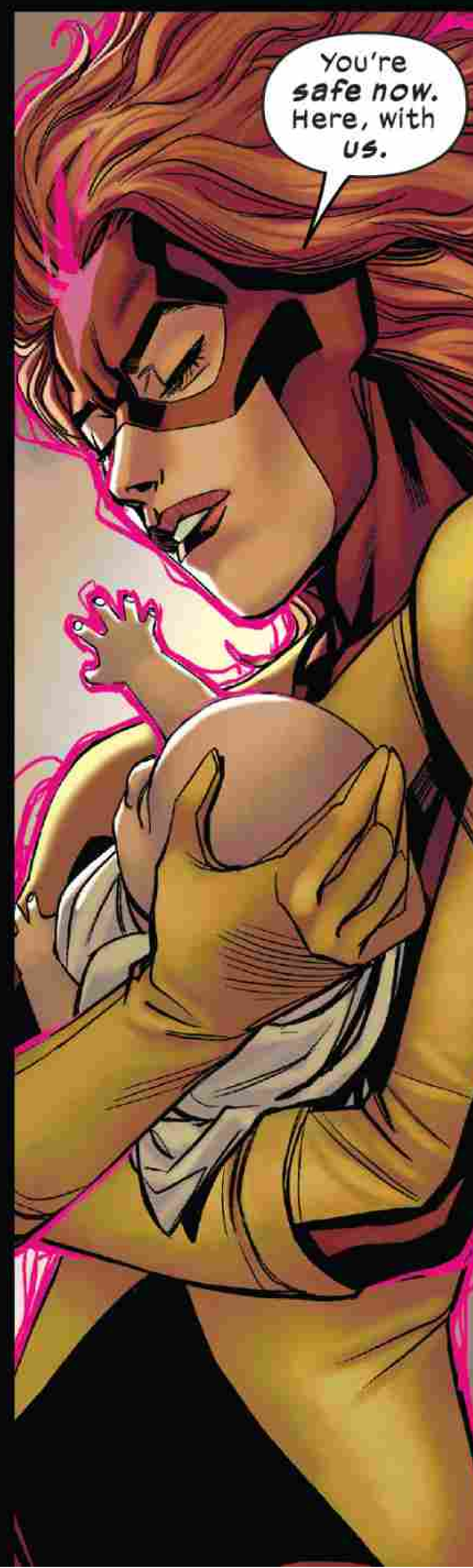
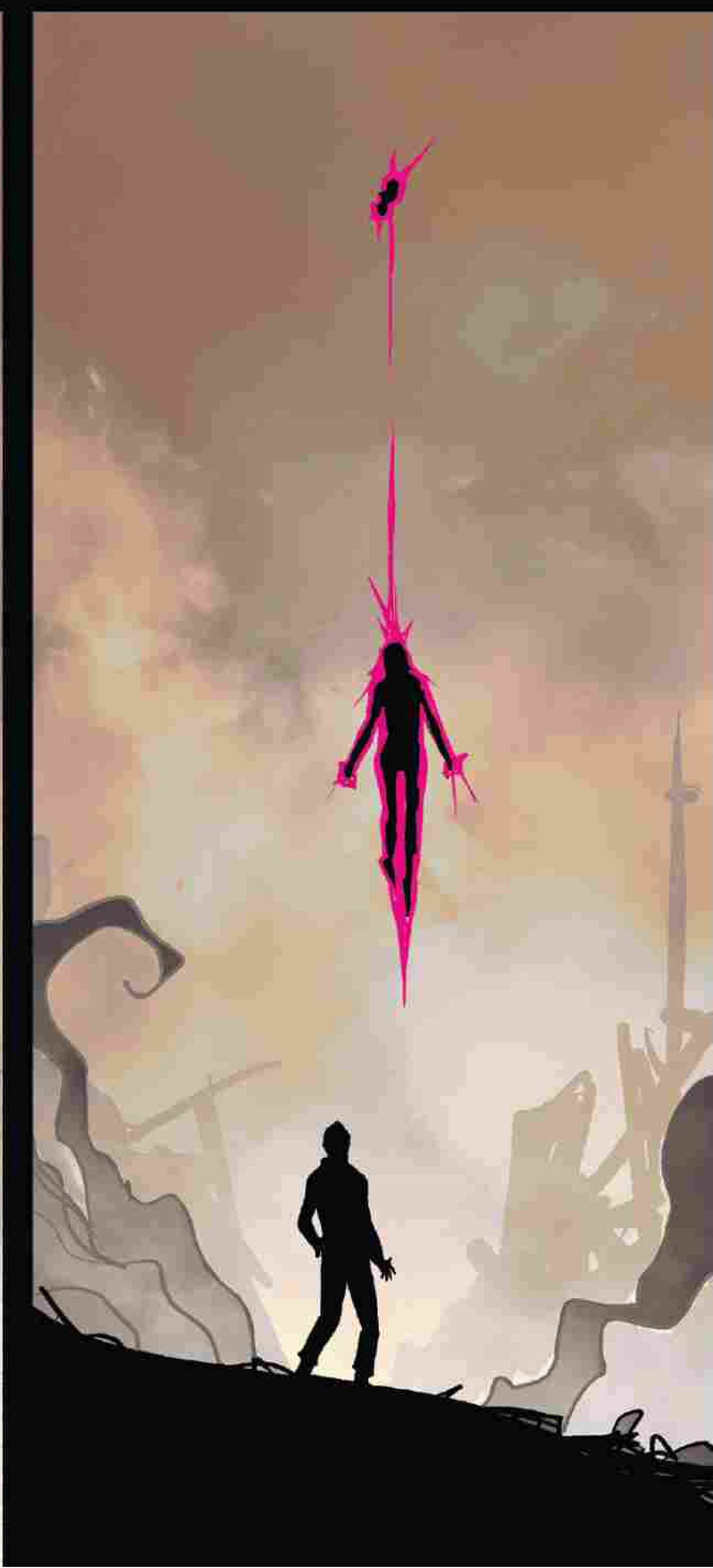
"...and stole the child."

"Scott and I, distracted by the battle, missed the demons and what they carried."

But what if the baby had cried out? What if I had heard his psychic scream...?

WHAA!

Scott! Monsters!



"So, that's how we play it this time? You remove the little parasite from the continuity, and I get a do-over?"

"You think my maternal instinct will kick in? That I'll forget my rage?"

N'astirh, you promised to bring me my son!

Hear the flap of demon wings, Goblin Queen? Even now, they bring the child.

"Give it a try but, believe me, you won't like how this ends."

Master, forgive us! Crotus took baby-- one who shone brightest, filled with power.

But mutant attacker kill Crotus--steal baby from him.

You left something that important--

--to this underling?!

A minor setback to my... to our glorious plan. Learn what you need to. Become what you must...

...while I arrange details that will guarantee our success!

Ah! Madelyne, my pride, my first and foremost creation.

Who--?

Most refer to me as Mr. Sinister. But you may call me Father.



I've taken
your measure,
Daughter, and
found you
wanting.

"With a snap of his
fingers, I'm in chains,
with *Daddy Dearest*
droning on and on. He
does so love to gloat..."

Daughter?
You're crazy. I have
normal *parents*. A
normal *past*.

Do you?
Then tell me
one thing you
remember.

I--I remember
Annie. Hit by a car.
Dying. I...almost
died too.

That memory
isn't yours. *Annie*
was *Jean Grey's*
friend.

I remember
flying. *Fire* and
destruction. And
the *moon...dying*
there. But--

You *awoke*
in your tube at
the very *instant* of
Jean Grey's death.
Your memory of the
Phoenix fire
is real.

You,
the *clone*, may
share *Jean Grey's*
resonance with
this *Phoenix*
Force.

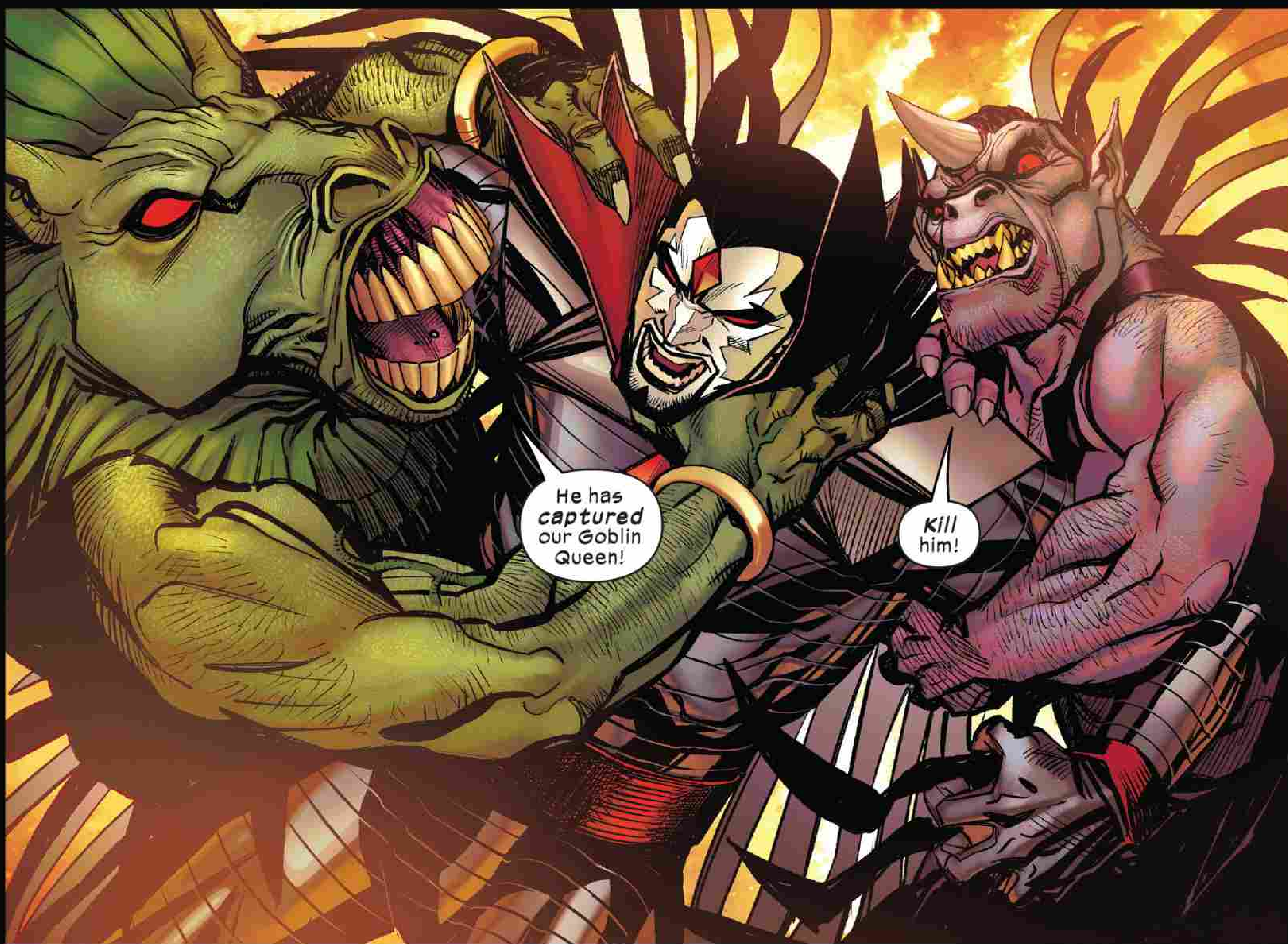
"A clone. The
truth at last."

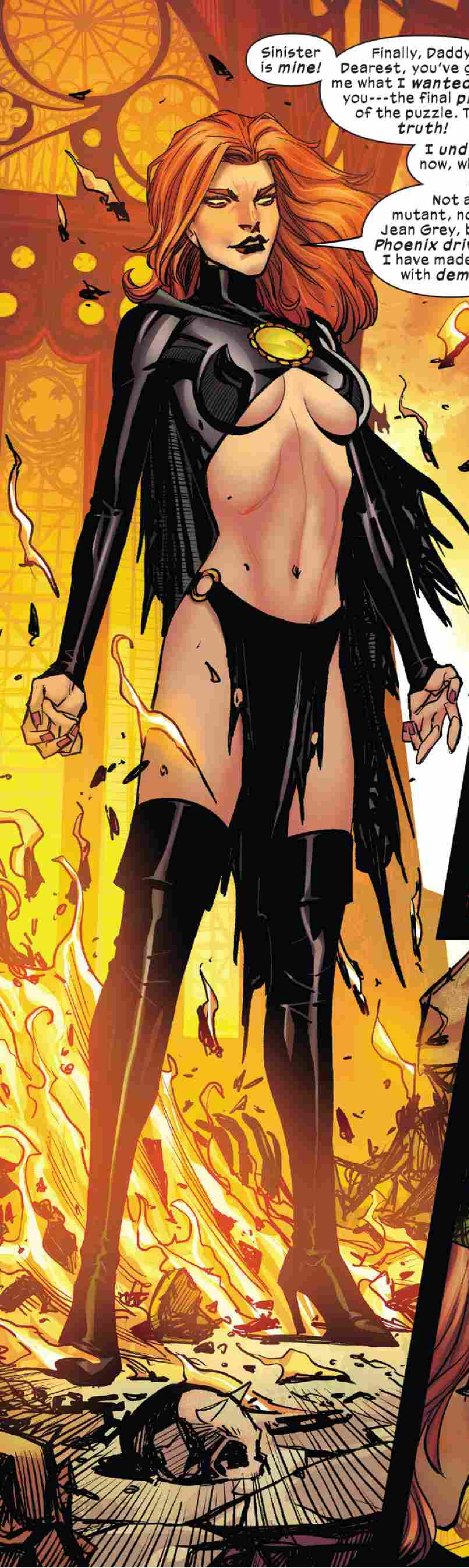
But...
why?

I wanted
the product
of *Jean Grey's* and
Scott Summers' union...
a child I would control.
The rest is...
obvious.

I'm a
clone. A brood-
mare. A...*nothing*.
Nothing I believed...
is real.

Weakness!
Defeat! Not the
reaction I expected
from the *Goblin*
Queen.





Sinister is mine!

Finally, Daddy Dearest, you've given me what I *wanted* from you---the final *piece* of the puzzle. The *truth*!

I *understand*, now, what I truly *am*.

Not a mutant, not like Jean Grey, but still *Phoenix driven*. And I have made a deal with *demons*.



I have *power* of my *own*.



Goblin Majesty, *forgive* the interruption, but we should *go* now for your *son*.

His glorious *sacrifice* will open the *portal* from Limbo to Earth...

...so that you may *rule* by my side.



By your *side*?



I think *not*, demon. I have something *else* in mind.

Wise *choice*, Goblin Queen. Easy to see *techno-organic* demon *Sym* make better consort--





--for
Goblin Queen--
AAH!

I need
no allies.

All of
Limbo knows how
this *virus* works.
How it's passed on
through *touch*
and *will*.

How the
infected
can drain *life*
energy from
others.

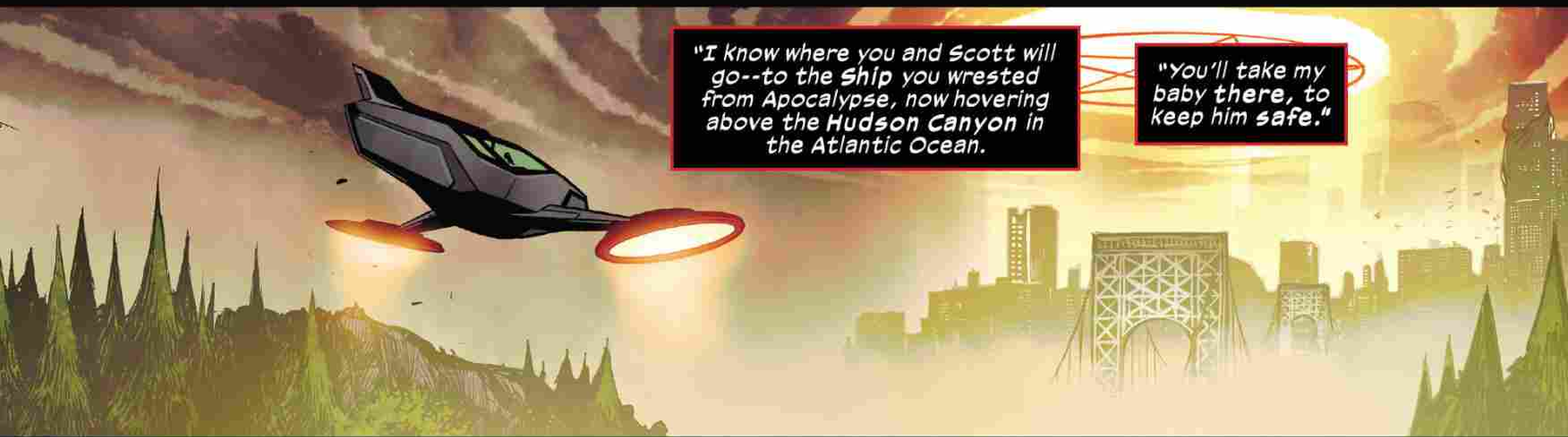
Now I am
thrice powered--
by *Phoenix*.
By *demon*
magic...



...and
by this
oh-so-useful
alteration
of being.

I may not be
a *real* person--
no longer *human*
at all. But it seems
I'm *something*
more.

I am,
now, truly the
Goblin Queen, and
my reign is about
to *begin*!



"I know where you and Scott will go--to the *Ship* you wrested from Apocalypse, now hovering above the Hudson Canyon in the Atlantic Ocean."

"You'll take my baby there, to keep him *safe*."



Jean--that's *not* Manhattan's skyline. Not as I remember it. Contact *Ship* and--

I've been trying, Scott. There's *interference*. I can't get through!



That's the *Empire State Building*...

...but it's too *tall*. Too...*awful*. A nightmare version. I wonder...

The *baby*--frozen in that tube. And those *weird beings* attacking us. That made a kind of *real-world* sense.

But those same winged *monsters* are here. The flying things that carried Christopher *off*! Scott, they look like *demons*!



And that's *crazy*, right? In Illyana's *Limbo*, maybe... but not here on *Earth*.

What the heck is going on?



We'll find out, try to do something about it...



...after we get Christopher to Ship...



...if Ship, as we know it, still exists.

There! I see it!



And so far, it seems unchanged. Thank heaven!



Ship? Do you know what's going on? Manhattan--



--has been invaded and transformed by demons.

?!



My demons. Your teammates, **Beast** and **Iceman**, are there. As is, I believe, the **Dark Angel**. They will soon be **dead**. As will you.

Now give me **Nathan**! Give me my son.

Maddie?! What...happened to you? We thought you were **dead**. I...saw your **body**. They said **DNA evidence**--



DNA is what **Mr. Sinister** is all about. My creator made it easy for you to **believe** what you **wanted** to believe.

He tried to **kill me**...and thought he'd **destroyed** all evidence that **Nathan** existed.



I...know. I thought I was going **mad**. I worried I'd **hallucinated** him.

But then I found his favorite **rattle**, fallen behind a radiator. I consulted a **psychic**. I **knew**--

Maddie, why--?



Scott **rejected** my love--because of you! All I have left is **hate**. And **rage**. So much **rage**.

Jean Grey, I am **genetically** speaking, flesh of your flesh. I'm your **clone**. And, oddly, I share flashes of your **memories**.



Of **Annie's death**. Of yours...on the **moon**.

Of you **dying** of **radiation** poisoning. Of how the **Phoenix** came to you and you **rejected** it.

That was when it found me.



Now *all* of you will die.

You first!



WHUMP

Scott!

The baby! save... him...



Maddie, why? Christopher's innocent!

His name is *Nathan*! I *made* him, and I can *use* him as I choose!



His death will *open* a portal from Earth to Limbo, and I will *rule* it all. While you--

You can't *have* him.



Can't?

You, a mere *human*, even a powerful *mutant* human, can do nothing to *stop* me.

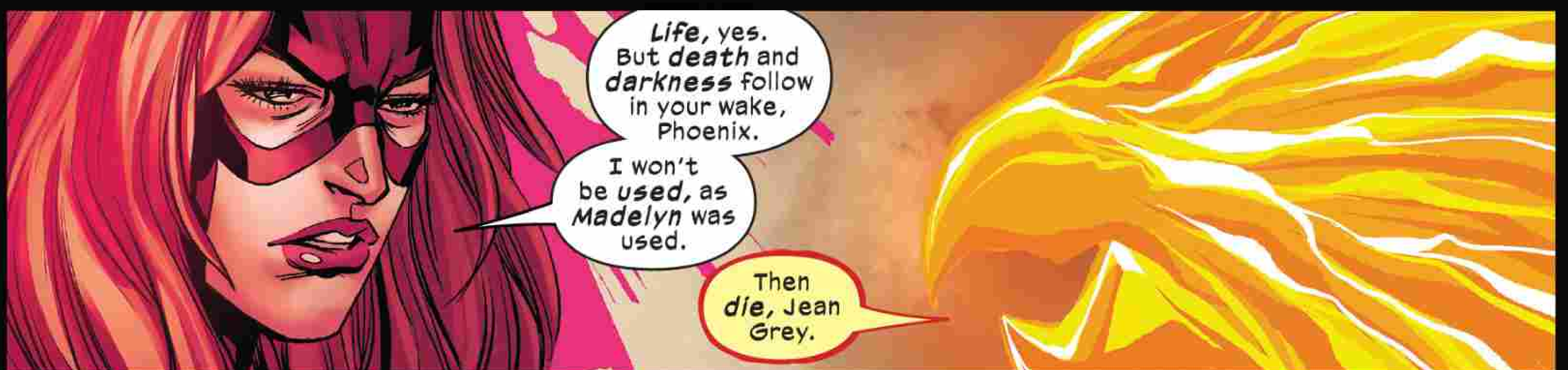


Your shield is *weakening*. How long can you *survive*?

Ship! Take the baby!



I brought Madelyne to life. I can lead you back to life, if you *accept* me as I am--my *darkness* and my *light*.



Life, yes. But *death* and *darkness* follow in your wake, Phoenix. I won't be *used*, as Madelyn was used. Then *die*, Jean Grey.



As ever,
the choice is
yours.



"So much
life."



"So much
energy."



"All mine,
at--"

NO!



Not...
all...!

Live, then,
for all the *good*
it will do you--live to
see, to understand the
consequences of
your choice.



To *give*
up so much
power...and to *me*!
How could you be
such a *fool*?



Think
the boy's
protected
now?

He's
as *dead* as
you're going
to be.



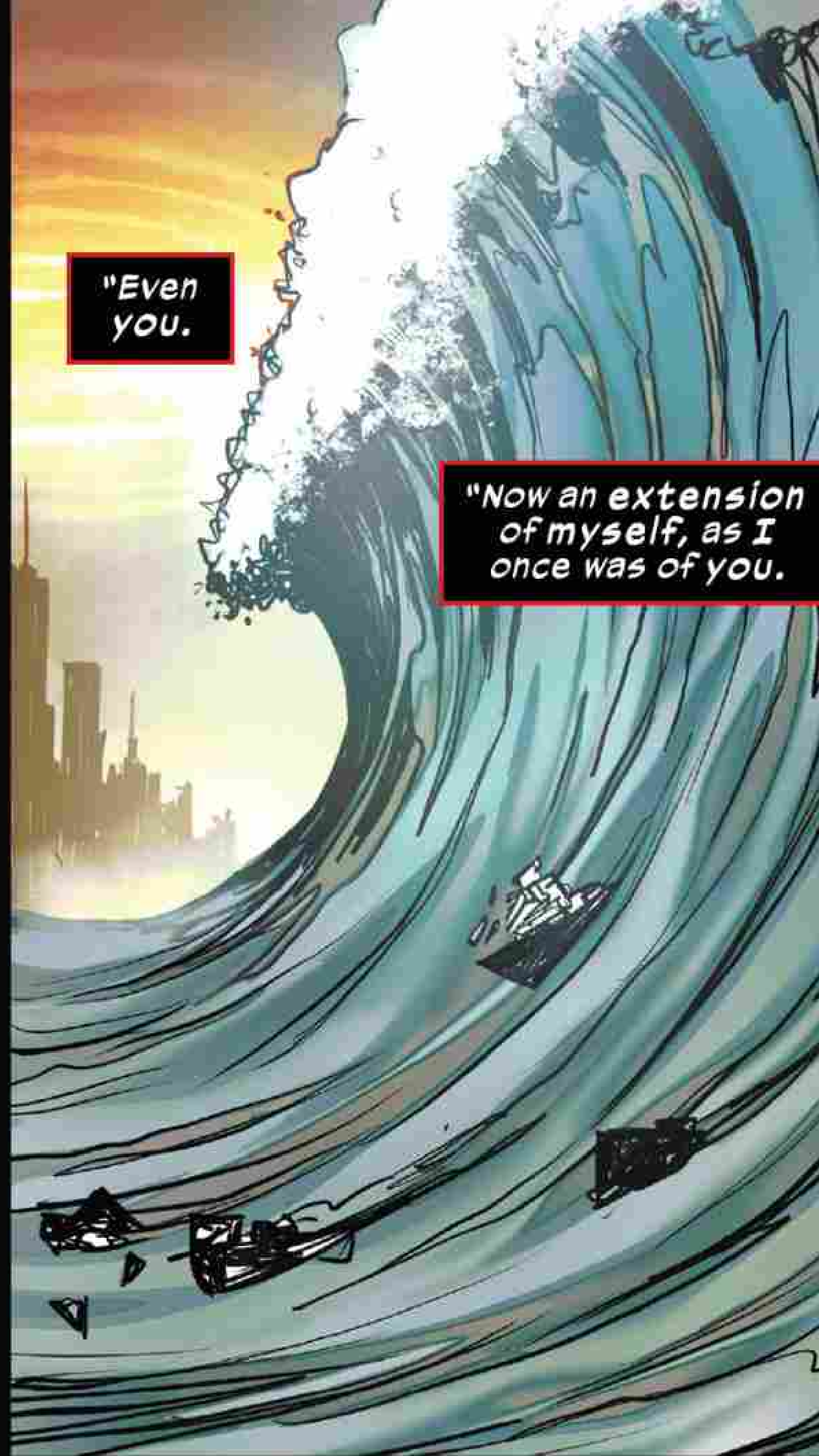
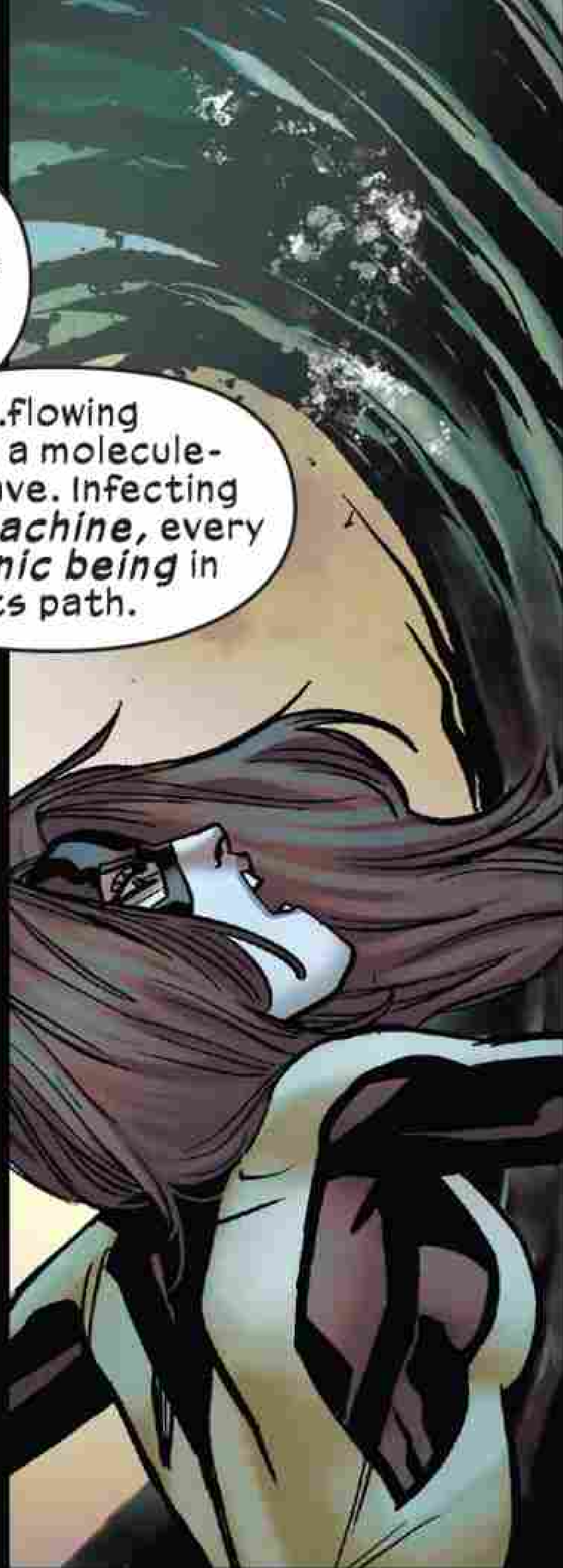
What's...
happening--?





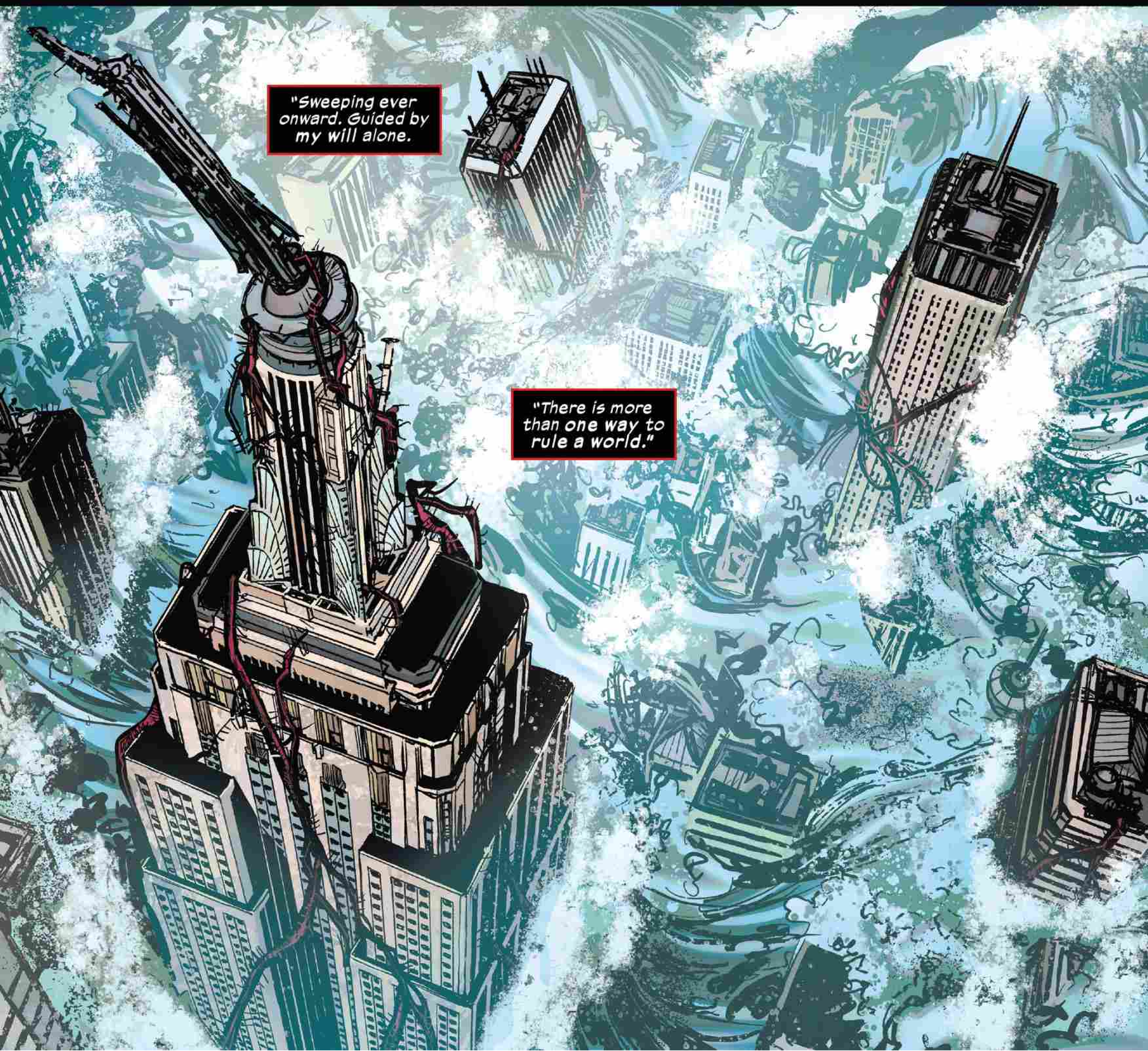
I control the *atoms* that make up this ship. They obey my slightest *wish*...

...flowing out in a molecule-thin wave. Infecting every *machine*, every *organic being* in its path.



"Even you."

"Now an extension of myself, as I once was of you."



"Sweeping ever onward. Guided by my will alone."

"There is more than one way to rule a world."



No!



Enough.



I accepted the Phoenix power.

I sent the power to others.

I rejected the Phoenix power.

Every choice meant death and destruction.



What *e/se* should I have done?

Why ask *us*?



You're the one who created this mess.

Aren't you?

Is she? Find out in

ASHES TO ASHES!

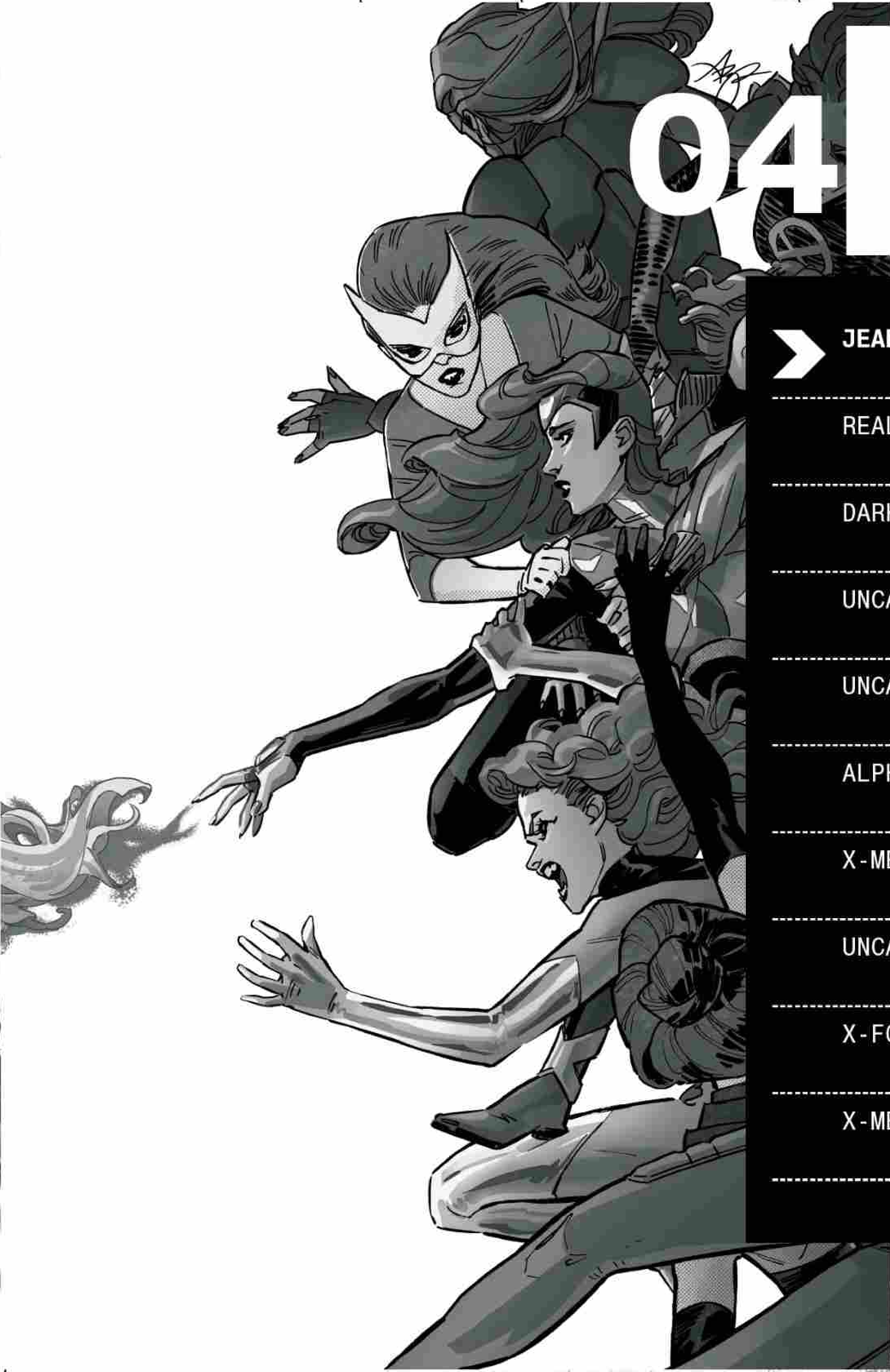
'Nuff said!

KOA is MULTAS

for all

!@#%&*~!@#%&*~!@#%&*~!@#%&*~!

FOLLOW THE FALL:



04



JEAN GREY #3

REALM OF X #3

DARK X-MEN #3

UNCANNY SPIDER-MAN #2

UNCANNY AVENGERS #3

ALPHA FLIGHT #3

X-MEN #28

UNCANNY SPIDER-MAN #3

X-FORCE #46

X-MEN RED #17



KAMIC RIDER

MARIKA